

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of March 27, 2006**

1. Ice Cream Social and Cultural Plan Discussion - Tuesday, April 4 (City-wide):

You are invited to join the Arts and Humanities Commission on Tuesday, April 4th, for an "Ice Cream Social" and discussion of the city's Cultural Plan. The event is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Atrium Conference Room on the three floor of the Takoma Park Community Center. The first discussion, held this past Tuesday, was well attended with 20 community members participating. If you would like to learn more about the discussion and plan to attend, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301.891.7224 or by email at SaraD@takomagov.org (*Housing and Community Development*)

2. Takoma Park Poetry Series - Thursday, April 6th (City-wide): A poetry reading featuring the works of local poets Greta Ehrig and John Peacock will be held on Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the Takoma Park Community Center. Hosted by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Donald Berger, this is the third in a series of readings sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Commission. An opening reading night is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301.891.7224 or by email at ahc@takomagov.org (*Housing and Community Development*)

3. Community Center Exhibit and Opening Reception (City-wide): The Art and Humanities Commission is pleased to announce the "1st Solo Art Show of Artist Catherine Miller" which will be exhibited in the Atrium Gallery at the Takoma Park Community Center from April 1 through April 30, 2006. The exhibit features the work of Ms. Catherine Miller, a member of the Takoma Artists Guild and the New Barn Studio. Drawing from her years of experience in working with children in a preschool environment, Ms. Miller's paintings are colorful and feature landscapes, children, pets, and allegorical abstracts. An opening reception will be held this Saturday, April 1st from 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm. The reception is open to the public. (*Housing and Community Development*)

4. Rental Housing Licenses (City-wide): The billing for the 2006 rental housing license was mailed out this week. This year's license fee is \$84 per rental unit. (*Housing and Community Development*)

5. Street Restoration (Ward 2): The concrete repairs have been started on Davis Avenue and will continue into next week. Concrete curb and gutter repair work is scheduled to begin on Heather Avenue next week. The City had been waiting for WSSC to complete their water line replacement work prior to starting on these streets. However, due to the delayed WSSC schedule, the City will proceed with repairs to the concrete curb, gutter, driveway aprons and sidewalk. The resurfacing of these streets will be not been done until the WSSC work has been completed. At this time we anticipate WSSC project to finish in 14 months. (*Public Works*)

6. Sidewalk Improvement (Ward 2): The City contractor will be fixing a stretch of sidewalk in the 800 block of Jackson Avenue that is in need of repair due to numerous trip hazards in the old surface. (*Public Works*)

- 7. Volunteer Activities in City Gardens (Ward 1):** On April 8,12 University of Maryland students will work at Thomas Seigler grounds removing English ivy and spreading mulch. This work has been coordinated by Mike Welsh, City Gardener. *(Public Works)*
- 8. Update on City Arborist:** Brett Linkletter underwent back surgery on March 10. His recovery has been slow and difficult. He is not expected to return to work until mid April and will be working at a reduced schedule initially. The City has hired Pitchford and Associates to provide arborist review of permit applications in Brett's absence. *(Public Works)*
- 9. Municipal Electric Aggregation:** Mayor Kathy Porter testified at a public hearing Tuesday in Annapolis before the House Economic Matters Committee in support of municipal electric energy aggregation. This enabling legislation would allow counties and municipalities to purchase electricity in bulk to obtain lower prices for residential customers. County Executive Doug Duncan and Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo also testified on behalf of the bill. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
- 10. State Funds for Community Center:** The State Legislature has announced its decision on Bond Bill (matching grant) requests, and the Takoma Park Community Center will be receiving a total of \$360,000. Our deep thanks go to Senator Ida Ruben, and Delegates Peter Franchot, Sheila Hixson, Gareth Murray and Charles Barkley (the Chair of the Montgomery Delegation) for sponsoring this bill on behalf of Takoma Park. Thanks also to Mayor Porter for spending a Saturday in Annapolis speaking in favor of this funding, as well as funding on behalf of Historic Takoma and CASA de Maryland. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
- 11. East Hampshire Development Proposal for the Maryland Gateway (Ward 3):** The developer has requested that M-NCPPC place the preliminary plan/site plan review on a 6-month hold. Any significant revisions to the plan would require that it be resubmitted and re-reviewed. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 12. Feasibility Study for Addition to Takoma Park Elementary School (Ward 1):** Montgomery County Public Schools will be conducting a feasibility study for an addition to the Takoma Park Elementary School, located at 7511 Holly Avenue. The study will include community meetings. For more information please contact Ray Marhamati at (301) 548-7538, the Project Manager for Montgomery County Public Schools Division of Construction. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 13. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Wards 2 and 5):** Tenants from 8624-26 Flower Avenue and 719-721 Erie Avenue have contacted the City after having received notification that their rental properties are being sold to Montgomery County Partnership. The tenants wish to explore their options and will meet with community organizers, Mario Cristaldo and Rozanne Look in the coming week. Tenants residing at 6901 Woodland Avenue have received notice that their rental property is on the market for sale with an asking price of \$559,000. There are two rental units. A letter to the tenants has been sent advising them of their right to purchase the property. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. **Accreditation:** Last Saturday the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies conducted a hearing regarding the October on-site review of the Takoma Park Police and officially awarded accreditation to the Department. Chief Creamer, Lt. Cipperly and two staff members attended the conference and Commission meetings. The accreditation status is good for three years, requiring an onsite visit again in the fall of 2008. *(Police)*

15. **Search Warrant (Ward 6):** Takoma Park Police arrested 12 suspects during a search warrant executed in a home in the 7800 block of Cole Avenue, at approximately 9 p.m. Thursday night, March 30. Personnel serving the warrant included TPPD Criminal Investigations, two patrol squads and the Montgomery County SWAT, comprised of Montgomery County Police and Sheriff officers. This effort is the result of a four-month investigation begun based on intelligence provided by a patrol officer and a private citizen. The search located drugs, drug paraphernalia, and other evidence. The house was cited by Takoma Park's housing department for numerous code violations and boarded up by Public Works staff. Three of the suspects were detained on open warrants; the remaining suspects received criminal citations and released. Investigation continues. *(Police)*

16. **Officers Recruited/Promoted:** Seven of eight candidates passed the dispatcher entry exam on Saturday. On March 31, five of six passed the oral interview and will enter the background investigation phase. The Department currently has three openings for Communications Dispatchers. Kristian Pedersen has been hired for a police officer vacancy and will begin work Monday. Pedersen will be assigned to the Administrative unit until details related to state-required in-service training are completed. Pedersen had resigned last summer to join the Washington Metropolitan Police. Christopher Eckford, a former TPPD dispatcher and experienced police officer has been hired and will be attending required in-service training next week. Five vacancies remain for police officers. Ofc. Greg Wolff was promoted to corporal and will be joining Sgt. Hammond's Squad 2. Ofc. Derek Fields was promoted to PFC. *(Police)*

17. **Officers in Meetings/Training:** Capt. Coursey, Lt. Cipperly and Denise Pullet attended a presentation on the incident command system at Montgomery County on Thursday. Chief Creamer attended the Emergency Management Committee meeting. Two officers attended counter terrorism training. *(Police)*

18. **Traffic Enforcement:** Traffic enforcement primarily concentrated on major roads, including Piney Branch, University, New Hampshire, Carroll and Flower. With more than 65 traffic stops, 58 percent ended in citations. Among arrests this week were two suspects for impaired driving, one for drug possession, one for aggravated assault and three as fugitives from other jurisdictions. *(Police)*

19. **Shift Changes:** Shift change will occur this weekend. Squads 1 and 3 (Sgt. Bowers and Frishkorn) will move to the day shift, with Squads 2 and 4 (Sgt. Hammond and Skibicki) going to the night shift (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.) This schedule will continue through May 14, which should be kept in mind when trying to reach officers on these teams. *(Police)*

20. **New Receptionist:** The City of Takoma Park welcomes Tiffany Stewart as a new Office Assistant. Tiffany will be sharing responsibilities at the main reception desk and in the City Manager's office. Stop by and say "Hi!" Please see Tiffany on a .pdf file on the City's website, provided by the Human Resources Manager. (*Community & Government Liaison & Human Resources*)

21. **Fun Day:** The Recreation Department held a Fun Day trip Friday, March 31, to the African American History Museum and the National Aquarium in Baltimore. These trips are designed for school holidays. (*Recreation*)

22. **Recreation Registration:** Registration has begun for the Spring and Summer season. The Recreation Department has a lot of new programs including several new camp offerings for the summer. Check out the

New Hire Update

March 31, 2006



Tiffany Stewart

Tiffany joined the City of Takoma Park Administrative Staff as an Office Assistant on March 27, 2006. Tiffany will be responsible for monitoring the front desk, mail distribution, passports and a variety of clerical tasks. Tiffany enjoys spending her weekends with her son, shopping and bowling.

Take a few minutes to stop by and say Hello to Tiffany.



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK